

WASELL-NASH HOUSE

Nash House
Hillsboro
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-160

HABS
NC
68-HILBO,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
~~WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA~~
North Carolina District

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

Addendum to
Hasell-Nash House (Nash House)
116 W. Queen St.
Hillsborough
Orange County
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-160

HABS
NC,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Historic American Buildings Survey

HABS
NC,
68-HILL
2-

Name of Structure - Hasel-Nash House (Nash House)

Address - 116 West Queen St., Hillsborough, Hillsborough Township, Orange County,
North Carolina. (House stands on Lot 58)

Present Owner - Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Moore
116 W. Queen St.
Hillsborough, N. C.

Present Occupant - Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Moore
116 W. Queen St.
Hillsborough, N. C.

Present Use - Private home.

Brief Statement of Significance: Architecturally interesting and puzzling. House seems to owe much to Plate 37 of Robert Morris' Rural Architecture (London, 1750). Often called a Greek Revival house but its accepted building date (1818) is early for a house of this sort in the area. Owners include Eliza G. Hasell, Henry Kollock Nash of the famous Nash family, grandfather of poet Ogden Nash, and Lieut. Gov. A. H. Graham, grandson of Wm. A. Graham. Thomas Tileston Waterman (Johnston and Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina, p. 38) says of it: "The culmination of the pediment type (of the "Morris house") is the Hazel-Nash house at Hillsboro, in which the wings have the pediments turned to the front, making a series of three facing the approach."

Date of Erection: Probably late 1819 or 1820, not 1818 as is commonly assumed (see evidence of deeds).

Architect: Seemingly owes much to Plate 37 of Robert Morris' Rural Architecture (1750).

Builder, suppliers, etc. Mrs. Eliza G. Hasell. Samuel Hancock may have built the brick chimneys and brick foundations since he was the leading brickmason in the area at that time. Source of reeded mantels unknown.

Original Plans, Construction, etc.

The house stands virtually unaltered. When it was restored in 1943, it was evident to the owners that only one change had been made (see below). The house consists of a high central block 2½ stories tall, and flanking single story wings, with each unit pedimented. Ionic columns support entrance porch. Original horizontal pine paneling, wide floor boards, simple staircase, alcove treatment in living-room. Original beaded weatherboarding, original shutters and hardware. Original chimneys. Unchanged floor-plan (see below).

Physical History:

Original and Subsequent Owners:

(The lots were part of the Town Commons before 1787)

1. March 26, 1787, (Deed Book 3, 12) - Town Commissioners of Hillsborough sold Lots 56, 57, 58 to John Stokes for 3 pounds.
2. Lots descended to Richmond Stokes by inheritance (see DB 20,374)

3. July 25, 1818 (DB 20,374) - The three lots, as part of the Richmond Stokes estate, now descended to Montfort Stokes, are sold at auction by Josiah Turner, Sheriff, to Archibald D. Murphey of the Hermitage, Hawfields, for \$500.00. The auction sale is dated July 25, 1818; the deed is dated July 25, 1819.
4. July 10, 1819 (DB 20,576-577) - Archibald D. Murphey bought on July 10, 1819, Lot 59, "the same whereon Archibald Haralson now lives," for \$2000. Lot 59 thus had a considerable house or houses on it. The Haralson house was probably the eastern portion of what later became Dr. Edmund Strudwick's house. Dr. Strudwick added the two handsome west rooms and enlarged the house considerably. Haralson was a relative and a close friend of Archibald Murphey, and it seems likely that Murphey stayed in the Haralson house when he held court in Hillsborough.
5. July 27, 1819 (DB 20,377-378) - Archibald Murphey (17 days after his purchase of the Haralson house and one year, two days after his purchase of the three Stokes lots) sold all four lots and the Haralson house to Eliza Hazell (sic) for \$2250.00 - a loss of \$250.00.

Note: A second deed (DB 18,341) cites Archibald D. Murphey as selling Lots 56, 57, 58, and 59 on _____, 1820, to Eliza G. Hasel, County of New Hanover, for \$2200.00.
6. Dec. 1, 1820 (DB 18,341) - Eliza G. Hasel sold Lot 59 and the Haralson house to Martha Strudwick for \$1750.00. (Presumably Mrs. Hasel had built her home on Lot 58, as town tradition says, by this time and could sell the Haralson house.)
7. Oct. 15, 1821 (DB 19,221) - Eliza G. Hasell purchased Lot 154 to the north of Lot 58 from the Town of Hillsborough for \$128.00.
(In 1828, Eliza G. Hasell married William S. Plummer and moved to Prince Edward County, Virginia.)
8. Sept. 28, 1829 (DB 24,148-150) - William S. Plummer and Eliza G. Plummer sold "the houses and lots....on which the said Eliza lately resided", Lots No. 56, 57, 58, 154, to Samuel Simpson of New Bern for \$3000 - ten years after her original purchase.
9. Will of Samuel Simpson of New Bern (referred to in Will Book H, pp. 307-308) leaves house and lots to his daughter, Mary Simpson Nash (Mrs. Henry Kollock Nash). Henry K. Nash and Mary S. Nash both died in 1897.
10. Agreement (dated Jan. 1, 1898, DB 55-2) - Mary Simpson Nash died intestate; and by a family agreement, six of her children gave up their rights to and interests in "the old Nash place", Lots 56, 57, 58, 154, 155, and 156, to benefit their unmarried sister, Annie S. Nash.
11. Sept. 10, 1919 (DB 77,58) - Annie S. Nash, Edgemcombe County, N. C. sold Lot 58, "part of the late Mary S. Nash property upon which the old Nash residence is located" and parts of Lots 57, 154, and 155 to John W. Hill for \$4000.00.
12. Nov. 10, 1921 (DB 80,214) - John W. Hill and Mamie J. Hill sold Lot 58 and part of Lots 57, 154, and 155, "the old Annie S. Nash residence or home place," to A. H. Graham for \$5000.00.
13. Aug. 20, 1935 (DB 103,347) - A. H. Graham and Kathleen L. Graham sold Lot 58 and part of Lot 57, "the Annie S. Nash residence or homeplace", to H. W. Moore and Lenna D. Moore for \$4000.00. (The Moores are the present owners in 1963.)

Notes on Alterations and Additions:

- (1) Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Moore restored the house completely in 1943. Their architect was Archie K. Davis, and blue-prints are available for study. At that time, they observed that only one early change had been made in the construction of the house:
- (2) The east or bedroom wing had been extended several feet northward to make the north room of the wing larger and a fireplace had been added on the north. A very small corner fireplace served by the east chimney was closed.
- (3) Dr. and Mrs. Moore replastered the house; they enlarged the west wing and added a fireplace to match that in the east wing; they changed the Gothic window in the high central pediment to a Palladian window; and they added a brick terrace at the rear, connecting the wings. A basement room has become a game room.
- (4) Mrs. A. H. Graham added the fine corner cupboards (originally from an early house in or near Graham) in the dining room during the Graham ownership.

Historical Events Connected with Structure:

Eliza G. Hasell has remained a mystery woman for generations to Hillsborough people, but it is clear that she was a widow from New Hanover County with money and with both taste and knowledge. It was most unusual for a woman to build a house of this sort in 1819-20. The house was associated with the Nash family for 90 years - nearly a century; and the children of Henry Kollock Nash and Mary S. Nash married into North Carolina's oldest families. Gov. Wm. A. Graham's grandson, A. H. Graham, Lieut. Gov. of North Carolina, lived here for 14 years.

Important Old Views: None
(with location)

Sources of Information: (1) Deeds Books and Will Books in Orange County Courthouse, Hillsborough, N. C.; (2) Archie K. Davis' blueprints; (3) Interviews with Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Moore and Hon. and Mrs. A. H. Graham; (4) The North Carolina Guide, ed. Blackwell P. Robinson (Chapel Hill, 1955) discusses Hazel-Nash house on pp. 118-119 in article, "Architecture," by Louise Hall, AIA, Duke University; (5) Frances Benjamin Johnston and Thomas Tileston Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina (Chapel Hill: Univ. of N. C. Press, 1941, 1947), pp. 38, 95 discussed and pictured. Picture taken before restoration).